

# Media Release



25 July 2017

## Yarra Ranges community groups share in \$20,000 of grants

Thirteen Yarra Ranges community groups have received a total of \$20,000 in grants from AusNet Services as part of a program to support projects delivering positive long-term benefits for the region.

As part of AusNet Services' 'Energising Your Community' Development, offered with the support of Yarra Ranges Council, applicants could apply for grants of up to \$3000.

AusNet Services' Customer and Support Team Manager, Gary Hocking, presented the groups with their grants at a ceremony at Upwey High School yesterday, said the response to the program had been fantastic.

"This program aims to empower community groups that share AusNet Services' commitment to building stronger relationships within the local area," Mr Hocking said.

"We had an overwhelming response to the program, which is a testament to the many volunteers who dedicate their time to helping others in the community."

Yarra Ranges Council Mayor, Noel Cliff said the selected projects were worthy initiatives that would have positive benefits for both the groups involved and the wider community.

"These grants will support the groups that make the Yarra Ranges such a vibrant, connected and interesting place to live," Cr Cliff said.

"These grants recognise the outstanding work of so many volunteers who dedicate their time to help others in the community, and will help their projects to grow."

Each year, AusNet Services contributes \$100,000 through its sponsorship program.

Winners of the Yarra Ranges "Energising Your Community" grants are:

- Coldstream Education Precinct for educational resources.
- Coldstream Social and Sporting Club for the installation of split air conditioning systems in clubrooms.
- Dandenong Ranges Music Council for a musical instrument stand.
- Gladysdale Public Hall Reserve for a kitchen refurbishment.
- Hoddles Creek CFA Junior Volunteer Development Program for camping equipment.
- Kilsyth Community Action Group for equipment to assist at volunteering events.
- Melba Support Services to purchase a commercial oven.
- Scout Association of Australia – Lilydale Scout Group for camping tents.
- The Gully Men's Shed for building additional outdoor equipment and renovating existing equipment to assist disabled people.
- The Philanthropic Collective for chromebooks to assist disadvantaged students.
- Warburton Makers Group for projection equipment.
- Yarra Glen & District Living & Learning Centre for a defibrillator.
- Yarra Junction Bowling Club for disability safety equipment.

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**Pictured:** Representatives from the successful community groups. (L to R) Vinko Rizmal, Fabian Fillip-Gautier, David Glazebrook, Jodi Hobbs, Matt Shakespeare, Gary Hopkins (AusNet Services), Walter Mueller, Paul Moloney, Melissa Gunner, James Lee. (Front) Ron Kerford, Helen Willsher.

**Ends...**